

which rend and destroy the towering poplar, rushing to maturity in a few brief summers, only to perish from decay long before the child who has seen it planted has reached the age of manhood. It will be our effort to conduct it in a spirit of calmness and yet of firmness that shall deserve respect, if it cannot command sympathy. Conscience has been sneered at by those who have left us; we shall endeavour to show all due deference to the conscientious convictions of others, whilst we follow prayerfully the dictates of our own.

We have been told that "the Church has spoken; it is for the minority to obey." We recognize no such rule in a Protestant Church. This is the rule in the Church of Rome, and it is one to which the members of that body must bow. But there are times when, and there are questions on which, one is a majority. It was neither in the whirlwind nor in the earthquake that the voice of God was heard, but in the still small voice. There has been too much of excitement, too great a clamour, too apparent a disposition shown lately in Montreal to concuss men into giving up their views and opinions,—aye, and their feelings. Now that they have had time to breathe and to reflect, there are many who, in the stillness of the night, may doubt the wisdom of the step they have taken. Let them pray for guidance now, as we trust all have done hitherto. Of one thing we are assured: God reigneth.

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THE DISRUPTION OF 1875.

Foiled in every attempt to destroy our Church by open hostility, there has been for some years past an effort made, by the use of other means, to have her removed out of the way, and to have the schism begun in 1844 completed. A large number of our ministers have, under a mistaken sense of duty, seen fit to ally themselves with a body which has not hesitated, and does not now scruple, to declare that the branch of the Church of Scotland in Canada is no true member of Christ's visible Church. Of all those, who, with such open parade, marched from the Synod of our Church to the Skating Rink in Montreal, we do not hesitate to say, and we say so with a full sense of responsibility in making such a statement, not twenty members of Synod believed that the step they took was one which would be productive of benefit to the cause of religion in Canada. How was it then brought about? is the natural enquiry. To this enquiry the answer is easy. The chief cause was the persistent efforts of a very few men, who had determined to sweep our Church out of existence, some from old antipathy to the Church to which they professed to belong, but with which they had no sympathy; others from motives which we do not care too closely to scan; others from vanity and the desire to show off before a larger body, vanity appealed to and fostered by those who were the real leaders; and others still, went with the multitude, some from weakness, others from a conscientious feeling that they must obey the fathers of the Church, even if they were not satisfied. Every effort to